

REMARKS

Claims 15-32 are pending and have been rejected. Claims 17, 19, 21 and 26 are amended, and claims 15, 16, 18, 22, 24, 25, 27 and 30 are canceled by this response. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments.

Claim Objection

Claim 15 was objected to as unclear. Claim 15 has been canceled. Withdrawal of the objection is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 16 and 25 have been canceled. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

1. Claims 15-17, 20, 24-26 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Parsley, U.S. published application 2004/0244973 A1.

Claims 15-16, 24 and 25 are canceled. Claims 17 and 26 are independent claims and have been amended to incorporate the features of prior claims 18 and 27 regarding the tail gas treatment unit. Basis for the amendments can be found in the original claims. Claims 18 and 27 are now canceled.

The Parsley published application does not disclose a tail gas treatment unit. Claim 20, which depends from amended claim 17, and claim 29, which depends from amended claim 26, include all of the limitations of their respective base claims. Applicants submit that claims 17, 20, 26 and 29 recite a novel and nonobvious invention which is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the teachings of the Parsley published application. Reconsideration of claims 17, 20, 26 and 29 and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on the Parsley published patent application is requested.

A correction to claim 26 was also made changing compression unit to air separation unit. Basis for the amendment can be found in claim 17. Amendments have also been made to claims 19 and 21 to conform the dependency to amended claim 17. Claims 19, 20, 21 and 23 depend from claim 17 and, with claim 17, are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 28, 29, 31 and 32 depend from claim 26 and, with claim 26, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 15-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Olsvik, U.S. published application 2006/0231455 A1. Applicants draw the Examiner's attention to the earlier effective filing date of the Subject Application, which is a U.S. national stage application of PCT/NO2002/000477 filed December 13, 2002. The Olsvik et al. U.S. patent application US2006/0231455 is a U.S. national stage application having an international filing date of July 13, 2004. Applicants claim priority to PCT /NO2002/000477 filed December 13, 2002 and have previously amended the specification to recite the claim to priority. PCT/NO2002/000477 filed December 13, 2002, from which the Subject Application claims priority designated the United States and was published in the English language. Applicants submit, therefore, that under the terms of §102(e), the Olsvik publication is not prior art to the Subject Application. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) based on the Olsvik published application is requested.

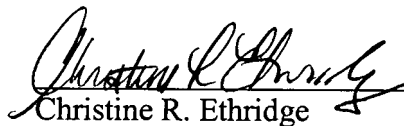
CONCLUSION

Applicants have made every effort to advance prosecution of the Subject Application and have addressed each of the grounds for the Examiner's objection and rejection of the claims. No new matter is introduced by the amendments. Claims 17, 19-21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 32 recite a novel and nonobvious invention and are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 17, 19-21, 23, 26, 28, 29, 31 and 32 are requested.

If the undersigned can be of any assistance to the Examiner in advancing the application to allowance or addressing any remaining issues, the Examiner is urged to please contact the undersigned attorney at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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